



What's On in Ardross

Edition Seventy Three
July to September 2023

For more information of events in the hall please check the Ardross Community Hall website - www.ardrosshall.com Facebook page - <http://www.facebook.com/ArdrossCommunityHall>

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY ARDROSS COMMUNITY HALL

Man Shed

Thursday 14th September 2023

8pm

Tickets - £10/£8 conc

Man Shed is a bitter-sweet one-man theatre piece which explores the joy of sheds, the pain of loss and the comfort of friendship. The play has been inspired by the work of the Scottish Men's Sheds Association.

Right Lines Productions, previously toured, *The Isle of Love, Rapid Departure, Whisky Kisses, and others*

The media and audience reviews were full of praise for **Man Shed** after its sold out shows at Edinburgh Fringe in 2022, and returns to the Fringe in 2023 for a four-week run at the *The Gilded Balloon*.

What they said: "Ron Emslie's performance of Euan Martin's script offers a tender study of grief and loneliness..."

Director, Dave Smith has drawn out the tenderness and sympathy of the story, crafting some heart-breaking moments." The Scotsman

"Absolutely mesmerising performance and phenomenal writing. Made me laugh, cry, and feel deeply. A stark reminder that mental health, trauma, love, loss, grief, and guilt needs to form part of our everyday check-in with other humans of all ages. Man Shed is not a should-see, it is a must-see." Steph Marshall Power

"Ron Emslie delivers a 'standing ovation' performance which goes straight to the heart... don't miss it." Jason Shroeder, CEO Scottish Men's Sheds Association

"This show is an absolute gem! Funny, sad, profound and poignant it covers the full gamut of emotions. Not to be missed!" Peter Searles

Booking details/Tickets: Ardross Hall IV17 OXN - phone 01349 880591, at the door, or online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/ardrosscommunityhall (booking fee)

Pub Night at the Hall

The bar is open!

Come and join the craic at the bar on **the last Saturday of every month***.

Cash and card payments accepted.

We hope to see you there!

* excluding July (for a private function).

26th August, 30th September, 28th October, 25th November

Scottish Opera Highlights Autumn 2023

Thursday 5th October 2023

7.30pm - 2hrs with 20min interval.

£18 full price/£6 under 26's (no other concessions)

A performance with four singers and piano accompaniment. Their repertoire is curated by Derek Clark, Head of Music with pieces from famous operas, some well known classics and some obscure pieces. There is something for everyone.

Linking narrative and characters are developed by the cast and Director.

Booking Details: Once live, tickets will be on sale on Scottish Opera's website:

<https://www.scottishopera.org.uk/shows/opera-highlights-202324/>

A troupe of talented singers, including the 2023/24 Emerging Artists, traverse Scotland to bring an original piano-accompanied production to local venues. This vibrant, one-of-a-kind show is created specifically for Scottish Opera each season. Director Laura Attridge (The Miserly Knight and Mavra 2022) brings her signature clarity and richness to this year's tour, and internationally renowned designer Ana Inés Jabares-Pita brings her Spanish flair to create an unforgettable and fun experience that adapts to every venue.

Music Director/Pianist Toby Hession, Performers Katy Thomson, Katherine Aitken, Innocent Masuku, Jerome Knox
Director Laura Attridge, Designer Ana Inés Jabares-Pita

"The whole experience was a unique privilege. Neither of us has ever experienced an operatic evening like this. The singers were brilliant, and the intimate setting allowed us to marvel at the acting skills." - audience member in Cullivoe, Shetland

ARDROSS COMMUNITY HALL NEWS

You may have noticed that work is underway on the new playpark. As the park area has just been newly seeded, we would kindly ask that the park area is not used until the grass has had a chance to grow. We apologise for any inconvenience but the large grass field is still useable throughout the holidays.

We also wish to extend our thanks to everyone that has come along to the support the pub nights; it is great to see so many attend. We are also grateful for the positive feedback received!

Remember, there is no pub night in July due to a prior booking but we will be back on Saturday 26th August at the usual time of 7pm.

Future Pub Nights will be Saturday 30th September, Saturday 28th October and Saturday 25th November. Mark it on your calendar and come and join the craic!!

The next Hall Committee meeting is on Tuesday 25th July at 7pm.

All Welcome

We have a meeting every 6 weeks and would like to encourage anybody with an interest in the hall to please come along and get involved. The hall belongs to the community and your involvement will help us ensure that we continue to meet hall-users needs. For information about the hall please go to www.ardrosshall.com or give us a like and follow on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/ArdrossCommunityHall>

For bookings and general enquiries please email ardrosshall@hotmail.com

Rory Bews, Chair, Ardross Community Hall Management Committee

randgbews@hotmail.com

07880 701974

ARDROSS HALL YOGA

Yoga classes are held on Wednesday evenings

8-9.30pm Iyengar style yoga class

Beginners and intermediates welcome.

Please bring a yoga mat and any props you have (brick, block, belt etc.)

Cost £10 and £8 concessions.

Information about classes contact **Juliette Lowe 07835458623** or juliette@dalreoch.co.uk

ARDROSS TODDLER GROUP

The Ardross Toddler group is held on

Friday mornings 9-12 in the Ardross Community Hall.

We will restart after the summer break.

Everyone welcome, enjoy coffee and a chat while the children play.

Covid risk assessment in place.

For more information please message Laura Pearson on **07393 639799**.

CEILIDH DANCING

Ceilidh dancing will restart in September/October.

Dates and times are advertised via social media

Please check the hall website or Facebook page for updates.

ARDROSS SWI

Ardross SWI will restart their meetings in September

New members welcome.

Contact Joan Scott 882914 or Betty Fraser 830 689

ARDROSS LUNCH CLUB

Ardross Lunch Club will restart in September

Please come along and enjoy a soup and sweet lunch.

We are looking for some help so if you have spare time on the first Wednesday of the month , please get in touch.

Contact Joan Scott 882914 Jackie Davies 880994

POST OFFICE

The mobile Post Office van will be in Ardross Community Hall car park

Every Tuesday

11.00 to 11.30am

The vehicle has an electronic tailgate for those that need easy access.

A wide range of services will be available

Windfarm Community Fund

If you have lived in Ardross for more than 6 months and a member of your household is aged 65 years or older you will qualify for the Windfarm Community Electricity Payment. The Ardross Community Council have agreed to make the twice yearly payments a standard £100. If you have not claimed this payment previously and a member of your household is 65+ years of age please get in touch.

For an application form and information about how to apply please contact:

Alison Gordon, Treasurer Ardross Community Council

07770325507 or alisongordon56@icloud.com

Crop Swap - Ardross & Surrounding Areas

Crop Swap - Ardross & Surrounding Areas is a community group that is simply opening the virtual door to offer our neighbours something that we might not need.

It is just an online offering at the moment, but hopefully, if the interest grows, then in 2023 we will have 'pop up' swaps at the Ardross Community Hall.

The theory is you can offer anything you have that is to do with food, gardening or farming.....

Examples: Eggs, Fruit, Vegetables, Herbs, Jams/Chutneys, Plants, seeds & seedlings, tools, jars, netting & poles also Books on relevant subjects. Gardens grow in cycles, we might not always have something to offer as a swap but don't let it deter you from getting involved.

If you have something to offer and do not use Facebook please contact Emma Chisholm by emailing upperachandunie@gmail.com or phone/text **07900556213**.

ARDROSS ONLINE

Ardross Online, run by volunteers in the community was set up to get fast broadband to all of Ardross. After many frustrating years with the support of the Ardross Community Council a wireless network was constructed to serve Ardross. The network is being run by Cromarty Firth Wireless [CFWN]. Ardross Online is still operational if only to ensure that Ardross remains connected to high speed broadband connections.

At the design and build stage the core backbone was funded to facilitate faster speeds in the future. It is because of this vision and progress with technology that CFWN are now offering an enhanced service just below 100mb/s to all existing customers. Conditions apply.

Some Ardross households close to Alness for instance might not have been part of the initial project, but might be interested in the enhanced service. It is better to get in touch with CFWN direct as there are sometimes connection charges, but they are trying to connect everyone in Ardross.

Although our project is closed there is plenty of capacity on the network and an extensive network built to cover Ardross. If you want to get connected to broadband please contact Cromarty Firth Wireless direct by visiting them at www.cfw.co.uk Phoning them on 01349 805040 or emailing them at enquiries@cfwn.co.uk

CFWN have also asked us to mention that if you have any issues with your broadband connection please do get in touch on any of the above contact details.

John Edmondson john@ardross.online
Director, Ardross Online CIC, SC561188

Tel: **07762 879404** or **01349 884440**

ARDROSS ARK
(formerly Ardross Church)

Success for Ardross Ark Spring Fair

The first spring fair to be held in Ardross Ark (formerly Ardross Church) has been hailed a great success by organisers and everyone who came along on Saturday 27 May.

Throughout the day a steady stream of visitors called in, locals and people from further afield, many enjoying the chance to catch up with friends and partake in the delicious refreshments whilst perusing a wide variety of stalls set up inside and outside selling handcrafts, gifts and homemade produce.

A highlight for many was the live music performed by talented young people including Archie on pipes, Eleanor, Jenny & Tilly & friends on fiddles and a rousing set by James on guitar.

Richard Smith from the Ardross ARK group said: "I'd like to thank all the volunteers who worked so hard to make our event such a success. Thanks also to everyone who donated raffle prizes and home baking which was of the highest quality. Thanks to your amazing efforts we were able to raise £1335 (plus a £1000 Ardross donation) which will prove incredibly valuable in helping with the upkeep of this much loved building.

The performers did a terrific job and lastly, a huge thank you to everyone who came along. We have been boosted by the success of our open day and hope to welcome more visitors to further events throughout the year.

To keep up to date on events Ardross Ark has a facebook page (ardrossark) and to make a booking contact 07876 683999

Anybody wishing to join the **Ardross Ark support team** please contact **Richard Smith on 880229** or message us on social media.

Ardross Pot

The Ardross Pot is available to organisations based in Ardross for help with a project, but not running costs. It is also available to individuals, but there must be a clear benefit to the community should the applicant be successful. Application forms are available from the Secretary:

John Edmondson, Dalreoch, Strathrusdale, Ardross on 884440/07762 879404
secretary@ardross.community

Beinn Tharsuinn Windfarm Community Benefit Awards

The Community Council is always interested to hear of new ideas and suggestions of ways to help improve our community facilities. So please let us know of any ideas you might have by contacting **John Edmondson, Peter Allen or Alison Gordon** or any other Community Council member

RODDY'S CHARITY CHALLENGES FOR BARNARDO'S

SAHARA DESERT TREK

EVEREST BASE CAMP TREK

February 2024



November 2024



Working in partnership:



Barnardo's

I live in Ardross and work as a Coop Store Manager and in 2024 I plan to take on two challenges to raise both money and awareness for our fantastic charity partner Barnardo's. To help them achieve better outcomes for children.

They have been supporting vulnerable children for over 150 years. The first challenge in February is to trek 50km through the Sahara Desert then in November the second challenge is to trek from Lukla Airport to Everest Base Camp with summit of Kala Patthar 18,519ft. I am planning various fundraising events over the coming months and welcome any support to organise events, raffles or can help sell a football card or two. Please email: roddy_barnardos@outlook.com Donations can also be made on my Just Giving Page using the link: <https://www.justgiving.com/page/roddymac-barnardos2024>

or by scanning QR code ·



Thankyou Roddy MacLeod
Cnoc Ruadh, Ardross

ARDROSS COMMUNITY COUNCIL...NEWS

ARDROSS COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

This year is an election year for the Ardross Community Council. The process starts in September. With nominations start date 5th September 2023, and possible postal election date 27th November 2023. We will post details on our Facebook page and website when the time comes. Details will also be available on the Highland Council website. If you are interested in becoming a Community Councillor or are just interested in the work of the Ardross Community Council please do come along. In May we co-opted Emma Chisholm as a Community Councillor.

We have made responses to various consultations during this time. Including Community Benefit for Electricity Infrastructure and the Scottish Draft Green Energy Policy. We are currently considering the Visitor Tax proposals.

We are aware that the Ardross Mobile Post Office has had issues connecting to the mobile network to undertake various transactions. It is hoped this has been resolved, Cromarty Firth Wireless have made the connection and the van has been modified for the new connection. It is yet to be tested however at the time of writing; we will keep you updated on Facebook.

MEETINGS

The Community Council hold their meetings in the Ardross Community Hall. All are welcome. Blended meetings have proved difficult to arrange.

We meet on the second Monday of the month so: **14th August, 8th September, 9th October** and **13th November** and **11 December 2023 at 8.00pm**. Updates on our meetings will be posted on our website: www.ardross.community and our Facebook page. Copies of Minutes and the Agenda are also available here. Agendas are published online the week before the meeting and are also available on our Facebook page.

ROADS

You can report pot holes using the Highland Council website, but it is cumbersome and seems to be designed to discourage reporting. There is an alternative way of reporting these potholes which is a lot easier <https://www.fillthathole.org.uk/hazards/report> and seems to get results. So if you come across a pothole that you think needs repairing please report it. Remember once a pothole has been reported the Highland Council becomes liable for any damage caused by these potholes to vehicles after a reasonable time.

The cattle grid at Inchlumpie has been replaced complete with amphibian ramps. We are currently chasing the following: Lealty Bridge and the barriers on Stittenham corner. We have also requested that the new sections of tarmac on the B9176 are top dressed to prevent the spate of accidents occurring on these stretches of road.

ELECTRICITY PAYMENTS

The Ardross Community Council have extended the eligibility for the electricity payments to households with anyone over the age of 65. There are more details elsewhere in the Newsletter. But please get in touch with Alison Gordon on 07770325507/882740, TreasurerACC2021@outlook.com if you think your household is eligible.

ARDROSS COMMUNITY COUNCIL...NEWS (cont'd)

WEBSITE

Have you visited our website www.ardross.commmunity? This is getting expanded bit by bit. We have information on current Consultations and Planning as well as the latest Minutes and Agenda. There are Archive files as well, where we have started to archive the Newsletters. There is a new page outlining the research for Remembering Ardross and we hope to add more information over time <https://www.ardross.community/ardross-history/remembering-ardross.html> Of course we still have our Facebook page which tends to have more up to date information.

PLANNING, WINDFARMS & PYLONS

Windfarms

At the time of writing we are still awaiting the result of the appeal by EnergieKontor on the Strath Rory Wind Farm.

An application for another wind farm is currently being considered by the Scottish Government as a S36 application. The Highland Council as a statutory consultee are asking for any comments. The Abhainn Dubh Wind Farm is being proposed up the Swordale Road in Evanton. It will be highly visible against the backdrop of Ben Wyvis from the A9. Comments should be made to the Highland Council epc@highland.gov.uk using the planning reference 23/02754/S36 or writing to them, details will be on the Highland Council planning website. If you feel strongly about this development you should also write to the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit details can be found at www.energyconsents.scot, the reference for this application is ECU00004732. You should write as soon as you receive this Newsletter as the deadline is very short.

Pylons

SSEN have announced their preferred routes for a large new pylon line running from Beauly to Spittal. SSEN have had various meetings at open Community Council meetings - running over the same old ground. The Ardross Community Council chose to have a site meeting with the SSEN's project representatives to emphasise the importance of the various landscapes, particularly those that are not currently heavily influenced by large man made infrastructure, and to look at various rerouting options. It should be noted that neither OfGEM or SSEN have demonstrated that there is a need for these pylons.

You can find more details on the project on the SSEN's own website or by following the link <https://www.ardross.community/ssen-ohl-project.html> You can also write to Martin Goodwin the SSEN representative at martin.godwin@sse.com or call or text 07467 399592 to make your views known. The Community Council's view that this route should be buried and not rely on technology and design from 1930's. It will change Ardross' landscape forever.

Planning

The mobile mast at Lealty has been approved. Highland Council planners failed to emphasise that mobile infrastructure should be shared which is Highland Council and Scottish Government policy, when making their Report to Members of the North Area Planning Committee.

ARDROSS COMMUNITY COUNCIL...NEWS (cont'd)

COMMUNITY BENEFIT

Recent Grants and getting an Award

The Community Council funds the Newsletter and makes a regular annual payment to the Ardross Primary School for organised trips, which was increased this year to £2,500 . We also fund electricity payments to eligible households.

The eligibility for the electricity payments has now been extended to households with anyone over the age of 65 years old. It has also been decided to make a flat amount paid twice a year of £100. If you think you are eligible please get in contact with the Treasurer Alison Gordon 07770325507/882740, TreasurerACC2021@outlook.com Details elsewhere in the Newsletter.

Between April 1st 2022 and 30th June 2023 the Community Council have distributed £37,299 of Community Benefit to eligible projects.

If you have a project or ideas for a project that would be eligible for an award please get in touch with Alison Gordon TreasurerAcc2021@outlook.com or 07770325507/882740 or the Secretary John Edmondson 884440, secretary@ardross.community for an application form or come along to one of our meetings to discuss your ideas. The Ardross Community Council want to help any group or individual if they have an idea that will benefit the community. But please bear in mind there are certain restrictions as to how the Community Council can distribute the money placed on them by the wind farm operators, they differ slightly so it is best to talk to us.

John Edmondson - Secretary for and on behalf of Ardross Community Council

Dalreoch, Strathrusdale, By Aness, IV17 0YQ

Tel/Text 01349 884440 Mobile 07762 879404 secretary@ardross.community www.ardross.community

There are now 55 newsletters emailed.

If you would prefer to have your newsletter emailed to save on postage or your address is not correct on the envelope in which your newsletter is enclosed please let Alison know by email to: alisongordon56@icloud.com

The Ardross Community Council has agreed to meet the cost of posting out a newsletter to households in the Ardross Community Council area. If you know of any household who has not received a newsletter please contact Alison Gordon 07770 325 507 or alisongordon56@icloud.com

If you would like to put something in the next newsletter please get in touch.

Alison Gordon is the co-ordinator of the details for "*What's On in Ardross*"

Contact details: Alison Gordon 07770 325 507 or alisongordon56@icloud.com



Looking back at the Archives

Ardross Community Newsletter

"The voice of the Community"

The Ardross Community Newsletter was first published in May 1997 and was produced by Iain Black with the help of Alison Gordon. There was already a newsletter produced by the pupils of Ardross Primary school in June & December called the "Ardross Parrot" so in order to avoid clashing with this publication it was agreed the community newsletter would be produced in October & March.

We thought you might be interested in some of the news that featured in the newsletter all those years ago. So here are some extracts from that first newsletter.

Ardross Social Union

At a public meeting held on 19th March 1997 it was agreed by a majority vote of the 40 Ardross residents present, with one abstention, that a new community hall was required to replace the present hall. A special subcommittee of 16 formed the Ardross Millennium Project (AMP) to examine the possibilities and the means of raising the necessary funds. It was agreed applications would be made to the following organisations. 21st Century Halls for Scotland (C21), Ross & Cromarty Enterprise, Highland Council, Scottish Council (capital grants), as well as many other sources of funds.

The estimated cost of the new hall at this stage would be in the region of £200-£250,000 with a contribution from the community of between £25-£30,000. Fundraising had already begun with £410.96 being raised by the end of April 1997. Community consultation took place with more than 300 questionnaires distributed throughout Ardross.

Ardross Community Council

The Community Council had 10 members and two vacancies.

A school bus shelter was completed at Cnoc Ruadh, a new car park for six cars has been built and new fencing provided to council houses and two additional street lights have been installed.

Roadworks

The Cuillich road has been adopted by the Council and resurfaced.

There was a landslide reported on the hill beyond Newbridge. Repair work was progressing with the building of a supporting structure.

Highland Council funding levels for Community Councils had improved and the Community Council was due an annual payment from the Novar Windfarm project and there was to be a meeting to discuss agreement on allocation of funding community projects.

What's On

Ardross Primary school sports were held on 4th June

Ardross Social Union presents "Unreal Estate" at the Aultnamain Inn on 6 June

Ardross PTA Barbecue & family fun night 21st June

Ardross Social Union Barbecue, Street Music & Licensed dance 26th July

If you have any copies of the first few editions of the Ardross Community Newsletter in your loft or at the back of a cupboard please let Alison Gordon know so we can keep a record of what was going on in Ardross & share the news from all those years ago.